

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A Voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP) communications network system
that enables direct-dialed (single-stage) access to the Internet Protocol (IP)
network from the circuit-switched network. Specifically, the VOIP network
system includes a VOIP service implemented on a communications system
which, after a customer number has been registered for the service,
automatically recognizes calls from the registered customer's telephone number
and determines if the call can be routed as a VOIP call over the IP network. In
10 embodiments of the present invention, the customer can register for the VOIP
service by selecting both a provider (PIC) and a calling plan or by only selecting
a provider. The system can be implemented to handle intra-state, inter-state
and international voice-band calls (for example, regular telephone calls,
facsimile transmissions and modem initiated calls) using standard circuit-
switched telephone lines, cable, twisted pair, digital subscriber line (DSL) and
wireless.